

Hampton Conservation Commission

Minutes of July 27, 2010

Meeting called to order by Chairman Wayne Kilpatrick at 7:32 p.m.

Also present: Randy Thompson, Bob Johnson, Phoebe Huang, Marcia Kilpatrick, Everett Hyde, Joann Freeman

Minutes of June 22, 2010 meeting were accepted.

Audience for citizens: Kate Donnelly and Amy Sterling.

Ms. Sterling stated that she was under the impression that another member was needed for the commission and expressed an interest in being appointed. She was informed that there are presently the full number of members already seated as pointed out in the ordinance. She referred to the fact that Dan Meade has missed the last three meetings and this could be grounds for disqualifying him from membership. Chairman Kilpatrick defended his absence as due to recent surgery. This was acceptable to Ms. Sterling who however stated that with Penny Newbury being away that she shouldn't be on the commission. Chairman Kilpatrick as well other members stated that Ms. Newbury is knowledgeable enough in computer skills that she can still work on projects when asked from her current location, that she has many contacts in the DEP and is very qualified in grant writing since she did this while working for the town of Sprague. First Selectman Kate Donnelly said both Newbury and Sterlings' name would be up for discussion at the next BOS meeting. Kilpatrick will ask Dan Meade if he is interested in staying on the commission.

Additions to agenda: none.

Old Business:

Members were encouraged to get barn photos taken. Some will have to wait until the leaves fall for better visual access.

Hiking Trail brochure - scheduled hikes for members and anyone interested to assess and photograph trails for inclusion in brochure. The first of such will be on September 11, 2010 at 9 a.m. at the Rad Otsby preserve on East Old Rte. 6. Information will be in the Gazette, on the town web sight and posters at the general store and library. Kate also suggested letting the Eco Club at HES also. This could be helpful in educating the town re: old town roads not currently carrying traffic. Some of these would be in the brochure. More trails could be added in the future.

HCC Chairman: Randy Thompson and Wayne Kilpatrick will co-chair the Commission. This practice has worked in some other town's commissions. Motion made to accept this arrangement made by Marcia Kilpatrick and seconded by Phoebe Huang.

Regarding re-appointments - Newbury and Sterling will be added to list.

Discussion about being better prepared for possible land acquisition state funding from DEP. Have property chosen, all information in place so action can be swift in responding to

funding/grants. Hyde also suggested a possible "buying option".

Banford property, (Rte.6), update:

Randy suggested that the BOS walk the property if they haven't already to increase interest in possible town acquisition to keep it open. This could also provide a buffer to homes built in the back property off Rte. 6. There is a pending contract on it. Ev Hyde suggested to wait and deal with new property owner rather than Banfords.

Kate is in talks with the owners lawyer re: the same deal as was on the table before. (See past minutes of Con. Commission and BOS). Have a conservation set-aside and offer property in front to Hampton. A lot of wetlands are involved. There's a possible 4 lot potential.

The question was raised as to whether a town meeting would have to be held to approve funds needed for the acquisition, (\$6,000), should it be initially approved. Kate will verify that amount for determination. Amount thought to be \$10,000 to require town meeting.

New Business:

Ideas for disseminating information about current re-cycling education involved Con. Comm. members taking turns giving dump users an brochure with instructions on what goes where and what is accepted. Since many people go on Wed. or seldom go at all. A box w/the information could be put up at the dump and employees could direct questions there. The BOS will up-date that information.

Chairman Kilpatrick asked for the current status on Joshua's Trust Little River easements. Joann Freeman will provide him w/this.

Steve Broderick (Goodwins) asked if this commission would meet with him again at Goodwins this fall to discuss ideas to involve us in future activities. We would be delighted to do so.

Town related business:

There will be an energy fair at HES on September 25, 2010 from 10 -2 (?)

The BOS will form a committee to discuss trash and recycling.

The town web sight will be up-dated.

Town is submitting for Airline Trail funding for a hard gravel and clean up between Chaplin and Pomfret.

Audience for citizens:

Ms. Sterling informed the commission that she had written a letter to the editor of the Hampton Gazette stating that the Conservation Commission "lacked transparency" in our meetings. that we were insular in our planning, and did not communicate with other groups nor did we educate residents. Also stated during the first Audience for Citizens that we were "unfriendly" while convening for our meeting. Several people had greeted her.

Chairman Kilpatrick stated a few things that had been done such as the formation of the Windham Consortium which involves members from all the towns in Windham county. These meetings are open to anyone and are discussed prior to the date during our meeting. Also a guided walk, a walking guide being prepared in conjunction with the recreation commission,

Hampton Gazette articles, a past meeting with Steve Broderick at Goodwins and that Ev Hyde had attended a national conservation based meeting were but some activities engaged in. When asked if she had read the articles in the Gazette or read other previous minutes and done research or had contact with any Conservation Commission member prior to writing the letter to the editor Ms. Sterling indicated not.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Joann Freeman, recording secretary